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# ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP

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July 26, 2000

**CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

G. Marie Watts (SR-6J)  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
77 W. Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Mike McAteer (SR-6J)  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
77 W. Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Thomas J. Martin (C-14J)  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
77 W. Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, Illinois

**Re: Response of Midwest Rubber Reclaiming, Division of Empire Chem, Inc. to  
EPA's Special Notice of Liability Letter, Sauget Area 2 Site,  
Sauget/Cahokia, Illinois**

Dear Madame and Gentlemen:

Armstrong Teasdale LLP represents Midwest Rubber Reclaiming, Division of Empire Chem, Inc. ("Empire Chem") at the Sauget Area 2 Site, Sauget/Cahokia CERCLA Sites. In response to EPA's Special Notice of Liability Letter ("Letter"), Empire Chem is willing to attend the initial settlement conference about performing or financing the activities described in the Letter. However, in expressing such willingness to meet with EPA, Empire Chem expressly reserves, and does not waive, any and all rights, defenses or claims from liability that Empire Chem may have in this matter.

G. Marie Watts (SR-6J)

July 26, 2000

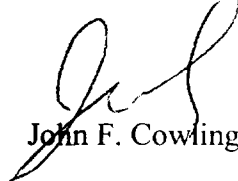
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All communications to Empire Chem about this matter should be directed to:

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Please contact me if you have questions about Empire Chem's response to the Special Notice of Liability Letter or to notify me of the time and date of the initial settlement conference.

Very truly yours,



John F. Cowling

cc: William H. Whittaker